



***By Jan Schultz***

***The Imperial Republican***

From the looks of the accident scene near Champion Tuesday afternoon, things could have been much worse.

However, all those involved in the two-vehicle collision escaped with minor injuries, according to a report from Chase County Sheriff's Deputy Bill Whitlow.

Eighteen-year-old Erica Varay's 2000 Cadillac Escalade sustained the most damage. Whitlow said she pulled out in front of a 1997 Kenworth semi-truck pulling an empty grain trailer.

Varay failed to stop at the stop sign on Champion's Second Street, as she traveled east, and was attempting to make a left-hand turn onto the Champion Spur 15A.

Edward Kohl, 65, of Imperial was driving south on Spur 15A when the vehicle pulled out in front of his semi, Whitlow said.

The driver's side of Varay's Escalade took the brunt of the collision, sending it into the ditch on the east side of Spur 15A. It came to rest on its wheels and did not roll, Whitlow said.

Varay was transported by Imperial EMS ambulance to Chase County Community Hospital with superficial scratches to her legs. She also complained of some chest pain, Whitlow said. She was treated and released.

Varay's child, seven-month-old Mya White, was also with her in the SUV, and was secured in a child seat in the back seat, Whitlow was told. However, the child had been removed from the scene before Whitlow arrived, according to his report.

The child was eventually taken to the hospital with a cut to her head, Whitlow indicated.

Varay was later cited for the stop sign violation at the hospital, Whitlow said.

Whitlow estimated the Escalade was probably totaled, and the semi sustained some damage to its front end.

The Imperial Volunteer Fire Department assisted at the scene.